

REMARKS

By this paper, claim 11 has been amended. Claims 1, 3, 7 and 11-20 remain pending.

In the outstanding Office action dated September 8, 2003, claims 11-13 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Orth (U.S. 5,800,521). Additionally, claims 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Orth in view of Inoue (U.S. 5,843,162). Claims 1, 3 and 7 were deemed allowable.

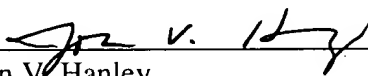
Independent claim 11 has been amended to recite a method involving inserting a bifurcated main body within vasculature at a location remote from an implantation site and applying a traction force to a first end of the main body to advance the main body from the remote location to the implantation site. As such, it is believed that independent claim 11 and the claims depending therefrom, namely claims 12-20, define subject matter which is patentable over the cited art. In particular, as indicated by the Examiner in the outstanding Office action, Orth discloses pull strands which are taught to be employed to place a graft and an anchoring member in an overlapping configuration after the stent and graft are placed in an appropriate position in a patient. However, Orth is not concerned with applying a traction force to a main body to advance the main body from a remote location to an implantation site. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that claims 11-20 also be deemed allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has attempted to respond to each and every rejection set forth in the outstanding Office Action. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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